



**State of Wisconsin**  
**Department of Public Instruction**  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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\*\*\***NEWS RELEASE**\*\*\*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DPI 2006-89

Thursday, August 31, 2006

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**Burmaster announces charter dissemination grants**

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster today announced \$450,000 in federal grants that will help experienced charter schools share their best practices.

“Charter schools serve a purpose as we strive to meet the needs of all students,” Burmaster said. “These grants help experienced charter schools share what they’ve learned so more schools can adopt successful programming to ensure a quality education for every child.”

To be eligible for a dissemination grant, the charter school had to be, at minimum, in its fourth year of successful operation, have demonstrated overall success including substantial progress in improving student achievement, document high levels of parental satisfaction, describe management and leadership practices needed to overcome initial start-up problems, and show the school is a thriving, financially viable charter school. Schools receive \$150,000 for this year and can apply for a second \$150,000 grant next year. The three charter schools receiving 2006-07 dissemination grants are

- **Greendale School District** — Time 4 Learning Charter School;
- **Oshkosh Area School District** — Oakwood Environmental Education Charter; and
- **West Allis-West Milwaukee School District** — Academy of Learning - 21st Century Skills Model.

“Charter schools are part of the energy and innovation we see in Wisconsin’s PK-12 public schools to meet the diverse needs of all students,” Burmaster said. “The collaboration and community partnerships they create are demonstrating new models to boost academic learning for all students and close the achievement gap.”

During the 2005-06 school year, Wisconsin had 183 charter schools. The Department of Public Instruction anticipates that 18 new charter schools will open in the 2006-07 school year. Charter schools

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are public schools accountable to their authorizing agency for performance measures included in their charter contracts. Charter schools must be nonsectarian, employ licensed teachers and staff members, administer statewide tests, and comply with federal regulations that govern all public schools. School districts and three chartering authorities—the city of Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and University of Wisconsin-Parkside—oversee the state’s charter schools.

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